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NEWS — FEATURES

Ducklings Rescued from Storm Drain

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

July 13, 2023 . 7:58 PM — 2 min read

By Peter Cheimets

July 13, 2023. A few days ago, my wife Karen Benedek and I were t[illegible] get in a walk between downpours when we came upon a mallard [illegible] standing on Arlington Street quacking at a near hysterical pitch. We

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quickly determined that the duck was calling attention to the fact her five ducklings had been swept into a storm drain and the ducklings could be heard chirping as wildly as their mother was quacking. I called the Winchester Police to see if they could help get the services needed to rescue the ducklings. Within minutes Officer Ryan Mawn, newly hired Officer Kyle Franco, and his field training officer Robert Delaney arrived. They talked to their dispatcher, who requested fire department assistance. Lt. Skip Frary, and Firefighters Jim Saunders and Rusty Magliozzi came to the rescue.

At this point mommy duck decided there were too many people around and she took to the wing. She flew around the scene quacking encouragement.

The firefighters opened the storm drain, lowered a ladder and assessed the situation. Saunders, double gloved and wearing high boots, descended into the sewer. A bucket on a rope was lowered to collect the ducklings. With a fire engine, and 2 polices cars at the scene, nearby residents and people walking by began to gather. At this point, maybe sensing things w
moving forward, mommy duck returned to Arlington Street and s

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pacing. She was immediately given a police detail, who kept her from getting run over by cars trying to drive through the chaos. After a few minutes she took off again, and landed near 34 Arlington St. Meanwhile firefighter Saunders was able to put a single duckling in the bucket. It was released on the lawn next to the storm drain and quickly reunited with its mother.

Down in the hole, the other four ducklings had moved as far as they could from Saunders so the ladder was removed to give him more room. With the ladder gone and the ducklings in easy reach, things moved forward quickly. Within a minute or two Saunders placed the other four ducklings into the bucket and they were released on the lawn. Mommy and sibling greeted the four new arrivals and, satisfied that she had all her family, mom led her brood into the underbrush. At this point Saunders called for the bucket again, it seems that there was also a toad in the storm drain who was given a change of scenery.

Peter Cheimets develops telescopes for the Smithsonian Institution and is a town meeting member. Video courtesy of Skip Frary.

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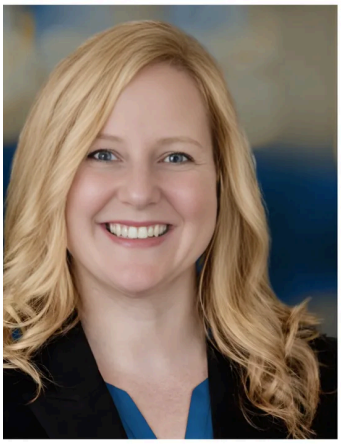

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

March 3, 2026

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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NEWS

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Wi presents 'Syldason: You Are

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stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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